

Day. On this historic day, we honor the achievements of the Jewish people and the Jewish state, and salute a young and proud nation that has accomplished so much in so little time.

In the 57 years since independence, Israel has welcomed immigrants from all corners of the world, including over a million new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Israel today is a vibrant democracy, the only democracy in the Middle East, and a world leader in technology and agricultural innovation for arid regions.

We must remember that these great achievements have come at a great cost. More than 20,000 Israel Defense Force members have died fighting for the cause of a Jewish state in the years since the war of independence—over 169 Israeli soldiers in the past year alone, since the last Remembrance and Independence Days. Their sacrifice has created a beacon of democracy and hope for millions of Jews around the world.

We must also remember those innocent civilians who have been killed by terrorists trying to destroy the State of Israel and her people. By remaining strong in our convictions and our support of Israel, we honor their memory and move closer towards creating a peaceful and prosperous future.

On this Day of Independence, the United States of America and Israel stand side-by-side in our commitment to democracy, to peace, and to the State of Israel. The United States will never flinch and will never waiver in its support for the safety and security of the State of Israel and of her people.

NEW BOOK REVEALS VOICES OF SOUTH ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have recently been given a copy of an interesting new book called *Authentic Voices of South Asia*, edited by retired Brigadier General Usman Khalid and published by the London Institute of South Asia. The book is an excellent discussion of India's hegemonic ambitions in South Asia and the drive for self-determination for all the peoples of the subcontinent. I recommend it to my colleagues as an excellent source of information about that difficult and troubled region.

The book includes essays on the situation in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, and in other troubled parts of the subcontinent. It extensively discusses India's ambition to be the overwhelming, hegemonic power in South Asia and control all the countries there and its disrespect for the sovereignty of its neighbors. It is dedicated to "250,000 Sikhs, 90,000 Muslim Kashmiri Martyrs and many more who have been killed in all parts of India, notably Assam, Maharashtra, and Gujarat by Hindu mobs or the Indian police and armed forces." This doesn't mention the fact that the Hindu mobs carry out their atrocities with the connivance of the Indian police and armed forces. For example, a policeman in Gujarat told an Indian newspaper that the massacre of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims there was pre-planned by the Indian government and the police were told to stand aside, a remarkable parallel to

the 1984 Delhi massacre of Sikhs, in which Sikh policemen were locked in their barracks.

In all, Mr. Speaker, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government, according to the Punjab State Magistracy, in addition to more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others, as well as the minorities cited in the introduction to *Authentic Voices of South Asia*. In addition, according to the Movement Against State Repression, India holds over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners, some of whom have been in illegal detention without charge or trial since 1984. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also held as political prisoners. This is why this book is so urgently needed and so important.

The book includes essays by Dalit leader V.T. Rajshakar, Dr. Gurm Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Editor of the *International Journal of Sikh Affairs*, and many other leaders and scholars. Mr. Rajshakar writes that "the glitter of Brahminism lies in its imperial ambitions and its fascist agenda." Dr. Sekhon writes that only accepting the principle of national self-determination provides a basis for peace and stability in South Asia.

India agreed in 1948 to a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine its status. That plebiscite has never been held, even as India proudly proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy." Well, why not simply let the people of Kashmir, of Punjab, Khalistan, of Nagaland, and of all the other minority states and communities determine their status by means of a free and fair vote. Isn't that how democracies do business? It is time for the U.S. Congress to go on record demanding a free and fair vote, demanding that India keep its promises and act like the democracy it claims to be. It is also time to stop American aid and trade with India until its "imperial ambitions and its fascist agenda" are abandoned and all people within its borders enjoy full civil liberties and human rights. Only then can India's claim of democratic principles be taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Preface from *Authentic Voices of South Asia* into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues and the American people.

AUTHENTIC VOICES OF SOUTH ASIA PREFACE

South Asia is the only major region in the world with unsettled frontiers. This is not because the states that emerged from the end of British colonial rule in the subcontinent have no 'principle' or 'agreement' to draw on for settling their disputes, it is because the largest country—India—has simply resiled on the agreements it made. The 'core' dispute in the area is over the future of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. India took the matter of its 'ownership' of the State to the UN Security Council which ordered a cease fire but rejected its claim; it upheld the UN Charter and secured an agreement of both India and Pakistan that the people would decide which country their state would join—India or Pakistan—in a UN supervised Plebiscite. India used the cease-fire to consolidate its military position and then went back on its agreement in 1953 to hold the Plebiscite on the specious grounds that Pakistan had signed a bilateral defence agreement with the US and introduced a 'foreign' element that India found unacceptable.

The root cause of all the problems in South Asia is India's self view as an 'imperial' power with a role to keep order in the region. India acts like the US did when it exercised control over South and Central America under the Monroe Doctrine or the Soviet Union exercised control over East Europe under the Brezhnev Doctrine. India does not recognise the sovereign equality of states of South Asia; it acts as if it operated a 'doctrine of limited sovereignty' of sorts in the region. India is resented and abhorred by all its neighbours for that reason. India became a 'strategic partner' of the Soviet Union during the Cold War and is now a 'strategic partner' of the US and Israel. It chose its 'partners' with only one consideration—who will recognise India as the 'primary power' in the region (a policeman in American parlance) and thus help keep a lid on the pressure cooker that India had turned South Asia into.

Pakistan is not the only victim of India's 'imperial' aspiration; the religious minorities and the 'low born' inside India suffer even more. India betrayed the Sikh who it promised to give their own 'sovereign state'. It betrayed the Untouchables by Poona Pact promising meaningless 'legal safeguards' in exchange for the effective 'political safeguard' of 'separate electorate' offered to them by the British Government. All the various tribal peoples all over India, who had been self governing under British rule, have been denied their separate identity and rights. The betrayal of India is matched by the ineptitude of Pakistan's leaders who neither understood the Indian mindset nor their own role as the champion of 'post imperialism' to uphold the right of 'national self-determination' in South Asia and as a 'nation state' with Islam as the principle of national solidarity.

Putting this book together was a huge task that could be done better if some of the constraints had been absent. Because it is so difficult to speak the truth and survive in South Asia, many of the *Authentic Voices* live in exile and those who live in India have to be careful. Being a soldier rather than scholar, my editing is not characterised by 'academic restraint' but by 'forthright clarity'. But I have not tried to harmonise style or substance; the differences of views between the various contributors exist, as they must. After all, these are the *Authentic Voices* of different I peoples. I am grateful to all the contributors, particularly to Syed Ali Geelani and Mr V.T. Rajshakar, who are under close watch in India, to have taken risks to address the people of South Asia and given them hope and direction.—Brigadier (R) Usman Khalid.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. One year later, our national debt is \$7.7 trillion. In the past year, our country has added \$700 billion to our national debt.

The conference report for the FY06 budget resolution that is before us today would increase the statutory debt limit by \$781 billion to a record \$9 trillion. Mr. Speaker, enough is

enough. The out-of-control rise in our national debt over the last year and the rise in our debt envisioned in this conference report are further signs of the terrible fiscal position in which we now find ourselves.

In 2001, we had ten-year projected surpluses of \$5.6 trillion [2002–2011]. Now, over that same time period, we have likely ten-year deficits of \$3.9 trillion. That's a \$9.5 trillion reversal in our ten-year fiscal outlook.

Whether intentional or otherwise, our country's current fiscal policies are depriving the Federal government of future revenue at a time when we ought to be preparing for an unprecedented demographic shift that will strain Social Security and Medicare. Our current fiscal irresponsibility will eventually land squarely on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren, who will be forced to pay back the debt we are accumulating today. The "debt tax" that we are imposing on our children and grandchildren cannot be repealed. It can only be reduced if we take responsible steps now to improve our situation.

Both parties need to work together in a bipartisan fashion to bring our budget back into balance so we can avoid the higher long-term interest rates and weakened dollar that are the inevitable consequences of rising deficits and a high national debt. We are witnessing on a daily basis the reaction of the global financial markets to our fiscal irresponsibility, and as we can see in this conference report, Congress has not yet gotten the message that deficits and debt matter.

For starters, Congress needs to reinstate PAYGO rules for the entire budget, including spending and revenue measures. Budget enforcement rules that apply to only certain parts of the budget will not have a significant impact on our rising deficits, as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan mentioned in his recent testimony before the Budget Committee.

This fiscal year alone, interest on the national debt is expected to rise to \$178 billion, and the administration projects that that figure will increase to \$211 billion during the next fiscal year. To put that figure in perspective, projected interest on our national debt next year will be \$75 billion more than projected spending on education, public health, health research, and veterans' benefits combined [\$138 billion].

Further, the budget conference report before us today, which was filed only three hours before the House began to consider it, would require the House to cut Medicaid funding by as much as \$15 billion over the next five years. Just two days ago the House voted, by a vote of 348–72, to reject harmful cuts to the Medicaid program, and this conference report blatantly ignores the will of the House.

In addition to assuming an ever-larger share of our annual budgets, the interest on our debt, and the debt itself, are increasing our reliance on foreign borrowers, which will weaken our position in the world and increase the risk that another nation will be able to assert greater leverage over America. Over the last year, our country has borrowed nearly \$400 billion [\$389 billion] from foreign countries, and almost half [44 percent] of our publicly-held debt is held by foreign creditors [\$1.96 trillion, out of \$4.4 trillion of publicly held debt].

Finally, our deficits and debt threaten the Social Security and Medicare programs that have raised so many of our seniors out of

poverty and helped sustain the strongest middle class in history. With a projected 75-year unfunded liability of \$3.7 trillion, both parties in Congress need to work together to address Social Security's solvency problem, and this conference report does nothing to protect Social Security. In fact, it continues the practice of raiding the Social Security trust funds to pay for other expenses of the Federal Government.

It is time for Congress to stop playing games with our national debt, with Social Security, and with our kids and grandkids' futures and take a commonsense, bipartisan approach to solve our budget problems.

TRIBUTE TO KCPT PRESIDENT/CEO WILLIAM REED

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, we join today to pay tribute to William T. Reed, the President and CEO of KCPT, Kansas City's public broadcasting station, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2005. He steps down after 13 years as head of Kansas City Public Television.

Bill Reed joined KCPT in 1992 and emphasized education, local programming and outreach. The station received numerous awards from PBS, the National Educational Telecommunication Association, NETA, and community organizations for its local programming and services, including 21 regional Emmy awards and one national Emmy for the documentary, "Be Good Smile Pretty". Four of the station's signature program series, "Ruckus", "Rare Visions", "Roadside Revelations" and "Kansas City Week in Review", began under Reed's leadership. He also introduced viewers to the beautiful writings of Kansas City Star columnist Charles Gusewelle, who this spring will produce his fourth documentary for KCPT, called "Stories Under the Stone". Reed's collaboration with Gusewelle also launched KCPT's home video library venture. Later this year, children and their parents also will benefit from the development of an interactive reading program called "Bark Park Place".

Bill Reed made partnerships and collaborations an important part of the station's business plan. In 2003, KCPT was named Best Place to Work for Community Partnerships by the Kansas City Business Journal. Many of those partnerships, like Chalkwaves, a digital instructional media service for elementary and secondary schools now used across the country, changed the education landscape. Additionally, the Kansas City Regional Access Consortium for Higher Education, KC REACHE, a distance education effort partnering KCPT with nine area colleges and universities, began under Reed's stewardship long before distance learning was commonplace. Other successful partnerships include Network KC, an in-depth news partnership with the Kansas City Star, KCUR-FM, KPRS-FM and UMKC's Back Channel, a student production for the web; and Speaking of Women's Health, a partnership with Shawnee Mission Medical Center to conduct a yearly health symposium for 1,700 women. The TV Dinner and the KCPT Holiday Auction were also cre-

ated, and a partnership developed with the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority for the Antiques, Garden and Home Design Show to raise additional funds for the station.

From 1997 to 2001, KCPT successfully conducted a capital campaign that raised \$10 million to renovate its facilities on 31st Street and to purchase digital television equipment. The station was among the first stations to go on the air with digital television and was cited by PBS as one of seven Digital Pioneers in public television.

Reed began his public broadcasting career in 1967 as General Manager of KIXE, the public television station in Redding, California. He joined the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in Washington, D.C., in 1974, where he was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1978 and worked until 1991. While at PBS, Reed led the planning and implementation of PBS Home Video and the PBS Adult Learning Service and the development of PBS VIDEO (a service for educational institutions). After leaving PBS, he also served as a consultant to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Reed served on the boards of a number of local and national organizations: the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Board of Directors from 1972 to 1974; the Association of America's Public Television Stations' (APTS) Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2001; and American Public Television (APT) Board of Directors from 1997 to 2003. He was elected as the National Educational Telecommunications Association's (NETA) first chairman in 1997. Reed served as President of the Jackson County Historical Society from 1996–1998, President of the Public Television Association of Missouri (PTAM) from 1994–1998 and 2002 to present, and Chairman of the Kansas Public Broadcasting Council (KPBC) from 1997–1998. Reed also served on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's (CPB) Digital Television Task Force from 1998 to the present, and was a member of the Video Advisory Committee to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from 1993 to 2000.

In 1991, the Pacific Mountain Network Board honored Reed with its Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to Public Television. He also served as a private sector representative in telecommunications for the U.S. Department of State to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (1989–London); as Chairman of the Broadcast Panel for U.S.–U.S.S.R. Bilateral Information Talks (1988–Moscow); and as President of the Western Educational Network (1972).

Bill Reed was born in Los Angeles, California. He received his B.A. in History and, following a year of graduate studies, his General Secondary Teaching Credential from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. From 1963 to 1965, he served in the U.S. Army, including one year in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Reed and his wife, Mary Ann, will continue to live in Kansas City after his retirement. A nationwide search is underway for his replacement and his shoes will be very difficult to fill. We commend Bill Reed for his many accomplishments on behalf of the Kansas City community during his tenure at KCPT and wish him and Mary Ann all the best in the years to come.